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her of whom I was writing flowed in my veins. Pride in ancestry, honored in those days of genuine patriotism, is, at least, innocent,—possibly influential in guiding conduct to nobler ends and aims. The more the American Revolution is studied, the more minute the revelations of the conduct of its public men, the more rational will be the reverence which we, the men of times far, very far, deteriorated, ought to have for them. I have endeavored in this little essay to shed some light upon Revolutionary domestic life, aside from mere politics, and to show what were the trials and heroism of the women of those days.”

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- 3.—1. *Grinnell Land. Remarks on the English Maps of Arctic Discoveries in 1850 and 1851, made at the Ordinary Meeting of the National Institute, Washington, in May, 1852.* By PETER FORCE. Washington. 8vo. pp. 23.
 2. *Supplement to Grinnell Land. Read at the Ordinary Meeting of the National Institute, July, 1853.* By PETER FORCE. Washington. 8vo. pp. 52.

THE facts disclosed in these two pamphlets are extraordinary, and till the statement of them is refuted or explained away, they must be regarded as discreditable to the English Admiralty, and to the naval officers under its command, who were engaged in the exploration of Wellington Channel in the summers of 1850–1852. For the satisfaction of our readers, we will lay before them as complete an abstract of Mr. Force’s “Remarks,” as can be made intelligible without the aid of the explanatory chart which is published along with them, and which cannot be transferred to our pages.

The question is a very simple one:—Who first discovered the land to the northward of Wellington Channel? If it was first seen by Lieut. De Haven, the commander of the American vessels engaged in the search after Sir John Franklin, then it should be called “Grinnell Land,” the name given to it by that officer. If it remained undiscovered till May, 1851, when it was seen by Capt. Penny and his parties, from the English vessels *Lady Franklin* and *Sophia*; or if Capt. Ommaney caught a glimpse of it on the 26th of August, 1850, when he was full a hundred miles off, at the southern opening of Wellington Channel into Barrow’s Strait, then its proper appellation is “Albert Land,” the name under which it appears on the English maps.

“The *Rescue*, the foremost vessel of the American squadron, entered Wellington Channel in company with the *Assistance*, the fore-

most vessel of all the English expeditions, on the 24th of August, 1850." On the 13th of September, having made very little progress, they parted company with each other, the American vessel then being considerably to the northward of her rival. The English vessels made harbors in Griffith's Island and the south shore of Cornwallis Island, and remained there frozen up for the winter. The American vessels, having pushed onward till it was too late to reach a harbor, were frozen into the midst of a vast field of ice in mid-channel, and drifted about in their icy prison, at the mercy of the winds and currents, for nine tedious and dangerous months. At first, to the astonishment of all, they were borne directly up Wellington Channel. On the 18th of September, they were off Cape Bowden, the most northerly point seen by Parry, and farther north in Wellington Channel than any English vessel, of any expedition, had gone up to that time. Four days afterwards, they reached their extreme point to the northward, in latitude $75^{\circ} 25'$, being a few miles to the southward of the place where Cornwallis Island or the western shore of Wellington Channel bends round to the westward. Here, as De Haven and all his officers assert, they distinctly saw, far to the north, a long reach of land, stretching from N. W. to N. N. E., and showing two or three mountain peaks, the most conspicuous of which, estimated to be about fifty miles distant *to the northeast*, they called Mount Franklin. The whole northern shore thus visible to them they called GRINNELL LAND, in honor of the gentleman whose munificence had furnished the vessels for the expedition. Baillie Hamilton's Island (which will be spoken of afterwards) was not seen by them, as it lay so far to the *northwest* that the sight of it was cut off by the northeastern corner of Cornwallis Island. So far as the continuation of Wellington Channel, now perceptibly bending round to the westward, was visible to them, they called it MAURY CHANNEL. The ice-field in which they were imbedded remained stationary near this point for two or three weeks, drifted about in Wellington Channel through the months of October and November, passed out to the southward into Lancaster Sound, in the following month, and finally released them far to the southward, in Baffin's Bay, on the 6th of June, 1851.

Meanwhile the English captains, Penny and Stewart, ignorant of what the Americans had done or seen, fitted out two or three sledging-parties from their vessels, and, travelling over snow and ice, thoroughly explored Wellington Channel, with its coasts and islands, as far as Cape Beecher, about one degree farther north, and four or five degrees farther west, than the extreme point reached by De Haven. This was done in the months of May, June, and July, 1851. From Cape

Beecher, moreover, Penny took the exact bearings of Capes Sir John Franklin and Lady Franklin, which were distant from him some sixty or seventy miles to the northwest, — that is, a considerably greater distance than it was necessary for De Haven to see over when he descried Grinnell Land from his position in the ice, at Lat. $75^{\circ} 25'$. Supposing himself to be the first discoverer of all that lay to the north of Cape Bowden, Penny called the northern limit of Wellington Channel ALBERT LAND, a name which it has continued to bear on the English maps since published, notwithstanding the complete evidence which has been furnished that it was seen and named from De Haven's ships in September, 1850. It is to the disingenuous contrivances of the English hydrographers and map-makers, acting under the official control of the Admiralty, to ignore or evade this evidence, or to rebut it by newly invented discoveries which had never been heard of till this exigency arose, that we have now to invite our readers' attention.

In the "Authorized Chart" of Penny's discoveries, which bears the stamp of the Hydrographic Office, and is dated September 23, 1851, the northern boundary of Wellington Channel is laid down as "Albert Land," with the addition, "explored by Captain Stewart." Precise information respecting the American discovery had not then arrived in England. But full accounts of it had been received, when Arrow-smith's chart, "drawn from official documents," was published, on the 21st of October, 1851; and on this chart, the land in question is laid down with this curious annotation:—

"ALBERT LAND. Seen (on the birthday of H. R. H. Prince Albert), from H. M. S. Assistance, 26th August, 1850.

"CAPT. OMMANEY'S JOURNAL.

"Independently seen and explored by Capt. Penny and his officers."

We do not hesitate to declare this statement, here made on the strength of Capt. Ommaney's Journal, to be an impudent invention. On the date here given, Capt. Ommaney in the Assistance, according to his own report made to Capt. Austin only a fortnight afterwards, was dangerously beset in the ice at the very southern opening of Wellington Channel, more than a hundred miles south of Albert or Grinnell Land, remained so beset till the 3d of September, was seen in his icy prison by the Prince Albert and the Rescue, and made an entry in his report on the 25th of August respecting "the solid field of ice extending from Cape Innis to Barlow Inlet [the whole breadth of Wellington Channel] which bounded the horizon to the northward, and where *no land was visible*." Capt. Stewart (Penny's colleague) also testifies, that Capt. Austin, in a letter written about the end of June,

1851, congratulated *him* on his return, "*and on having discovered that new land to the north.*" Of course, it was no discovery at all,—it was not "*new land,*"—if Ommaney, almost under Austin's nose, had seen it nine months before.

We have now done with Arrowsmith and Capt. Ommaney, and pass to the next map, emanating from the highest authority in England, and "Published according to Act of Parliament at the Hydrographical Office of the Admiralty, April 8, 1852." At this date, De Haven's report had not only been received in England, but had been presented to Parliament and printed among the public documents of that body, as a part of the "Correspondence and Proceedings connected with the Arctic Expeditions." With this unimpeached testimony before them, how do the Admiralty construct their official chart? The land to the north of Wellington Channel is still called "Albert Land"; but an island *far to the northwest*, and not seen by De Haven, as we have said, because quite out of the range of vision from his position on the 22d of September, 1850,—an island first seen and named by Penny in May, 1851,—is put down as "Baillie Hamilton Island,—*the Grinnell Land of the U. S. Squadron.*" The absurdity here is exquisite; the only front of Baillie Hamilton Island which is visible from Wellington Channel runs north and south, while Grinnell Land is described by De Haven as running east and west. But the mountain which the Americans descried and named, as one of the conspicuous points on Grinnell Land, N. N. E. of their own position, is inserted on the Admiralty map as the "*Mount Franklin of De Haven*"; but its bearing is shifted considerably to the eastward, so as to bring it upon the eastern side of the Channel, and into a region expressly described by Stewart as a very flat country, no hill being anywhere visible. Penny alleges that he saw a lofty mountain in the distance, on Albert or Grinnell Land, with two remarkable peaks, which he named "Sir John Barrow's Monument," and laid it down faintly on a chart nearly in Lat. $76^{\circ} 45'$ and Long. 93° or 94° W. Arrowsmith changed it to 77° N. and 96° W.; on the Admiralty chart, it is placed at $77^{\circ} 5'$ N. and $95^{\circ} 30'$ W. In Penny's first "outline chart" of his discoveries, delivered to Capt. Austin on the 12th of August, 1851, when, of course, he had not heard of De Haven's discovery, Sir John Barrow's Monument does not appear at all; and "no notice of such a peak is found on any of the journals of Penny's parties." Its existence appears to have been an after-thought, its locality a shifting one, and it is a fair inference that it would never have been heard of, but for the supposed necessity of entering something upon the chart which might stand for De Haven's Mount Franklin,

after that *American* discovery had been pushed round so far to the eastward as it appears on the Admiralty chart.

This conclusion may seem harsh towards Capt. Penny; and we should not state it so explicitly, if other facts did not remain to be mentioned which are very discreditable to him. "A Travelling Report" of his exploration of the shores of Wellington Channel, in the summer of 1851, is inserted in the eighteenth chapter of Dr. Sutherland's Journal, which was published in August, 1852, — long after De Haven's discoveries had become known, and nine or ten months after the publication of Arrowsmith's chart, on which the discovery of Albert Land is attributed to Capt. Ommaney. Accordingly, Penny had to shape his narrative so as to avoid conflict with the ordinary English version of the affair, to shun acknowledgment of any thing which De Haven had done, and to claim as much merit as possible for himself. In the "Travelling Report," then, he says he first saw Albert Land, May 12th, 1851, from Point Decision, the northeast corner of Cornwallis Island, not many miles from the spot whence De Haven saw it eight or nine months before, and quite as far off as De Haven's place from the object of discovery. He also saw the land, as the American did, stretching *from the northeast* to the northwest, though the Admiralty chart coolly identifies Grinnell Land with Baillie Hamilton Island, which lies entirely *to the northwest* both of Penny's and De Haven's place. Penny started on the ice, proceeding northwards, to visit the new land which he had seen; and while on his way thither, he discovered and landed on Baillie Hamilton Island. Here he makes this remarkable entry in his Report: —

"To the North and Northeast, the land could be seen very bold, at a distance of about twenty miles, and its deep bays could be distinguished very clearly.

"As the FIRST IDEA of there being land in this direction occurred on the 26th of August, 1850, on board H. M. S. Assistance, and also on board the Sophia, *our discovery* is doubly entitled to be named after H. R. H. Prince Albert."

"*Our discovery*" here must mean "the discovery by Capt. Penny and his party"; he claims all the honor for himself. But as it had been determined in other quarters, in order to anticipate De Haven, that Albert Land should be discovered in August, 1850, he graciously concedes to Capt. Ommaney the honor of conceiving, on the Prince's birthday in that month, "THE FIRST IDEA" that such a discovery was possible. He does not say that Ommaney then *saw* the land; that would be plucking the *borrowed* plume from his own brow. Neither does he say that Ommaney and the prince's birthday had nothing to

do with the matter; that would be to contradict Arrowsmith, and to restore the borrowed plume to its rightful owner, Lieut. De Haven. But he says that Ommaney on that day had "the first idea" of land to the north of Wellington Channel, which remained unseen by any human eye for some weeks longer. We can interpret this expression only by supposing, that, as the Assistance was fast beset in the ice on the 26th of August, 1850, its gallant captain, having nothing else to do, had gone to sleep, and first saw Albert Land *in a dream*.

But we have not yet done with this tissue of evasions and incongruities. Penny's Report, as we have said, was published in Dr. Sutherland's Journal. The Doctor kept a diary, and being reminded by it of the absurdity of maintaining that Albert Land was seen from the Assistance on the *twenty-sixth* of August, when every one knew that the vessel was fast beset in the ice on that day, in a position whence the new land certainly could not be descried, he changes the date, and makes the discovery take place on the *twenty-fifth*. This was one day too soon for the "Prince's birthday"; but it could not be helped; the pleasing coincidence must be sacrificed. It seems, furthermore, that the Doctor keeps a conscience, as well as a diary; for he cannot bring himself to affirm positively, that the land was seen from the Assistance even on the 25th. He says the officers "were divided in their opinions" on the subject; "some of them said they had seen it, while others maintained with equal positiveness that what had been seen was not land, but open water." And he adds, —

"No one, *as far as I knew at the time*, could say with any degree of certainty, that there was either the one or the other, and bring forward proofs of the truth of his assertion."

We differ from Dr. Sutherland; for we believe that the party in the negative could "bring proofs" of their assertion. For they might have turned to Dr. Sutherland's own Meteorological Register, where, against the date of August 25, 1850, they would have found this entry: — "*A. M. cloudy, squally, overcast; P. M. misty, overcast, snow.*" Now, any one who can believe that "Albert Land," which was at least ninety miles off, could have been descried through such an atmosphere, can also take all the English accounts of this reputed discovery, and reconcile them with each other, or do any other impossible feat.

But enough; for though we have not gone through Mr. Force's facts and arguments, our readers have now sufficient reason to believe, that there have been some very disingenuous practices in England, intended to rob Lieut. De Haven and Mr. Grinnell of the honor which is

justly their due. But we do not, like the writer of these pamphlets, attribute the blame directly to the English Admiralty. The officers of that Board have probably been led astray by relying implicitly on the unscrupulous statements of Capt. Penny, a person whose frankness and veracity, in his dealings with Capt. Austin, have been more than doubted. As his statements in this affair have now been proved to be untrustworthy, we may reasonably expect that, even on English maps, GRINNELL LAND will in future appear in its true position.